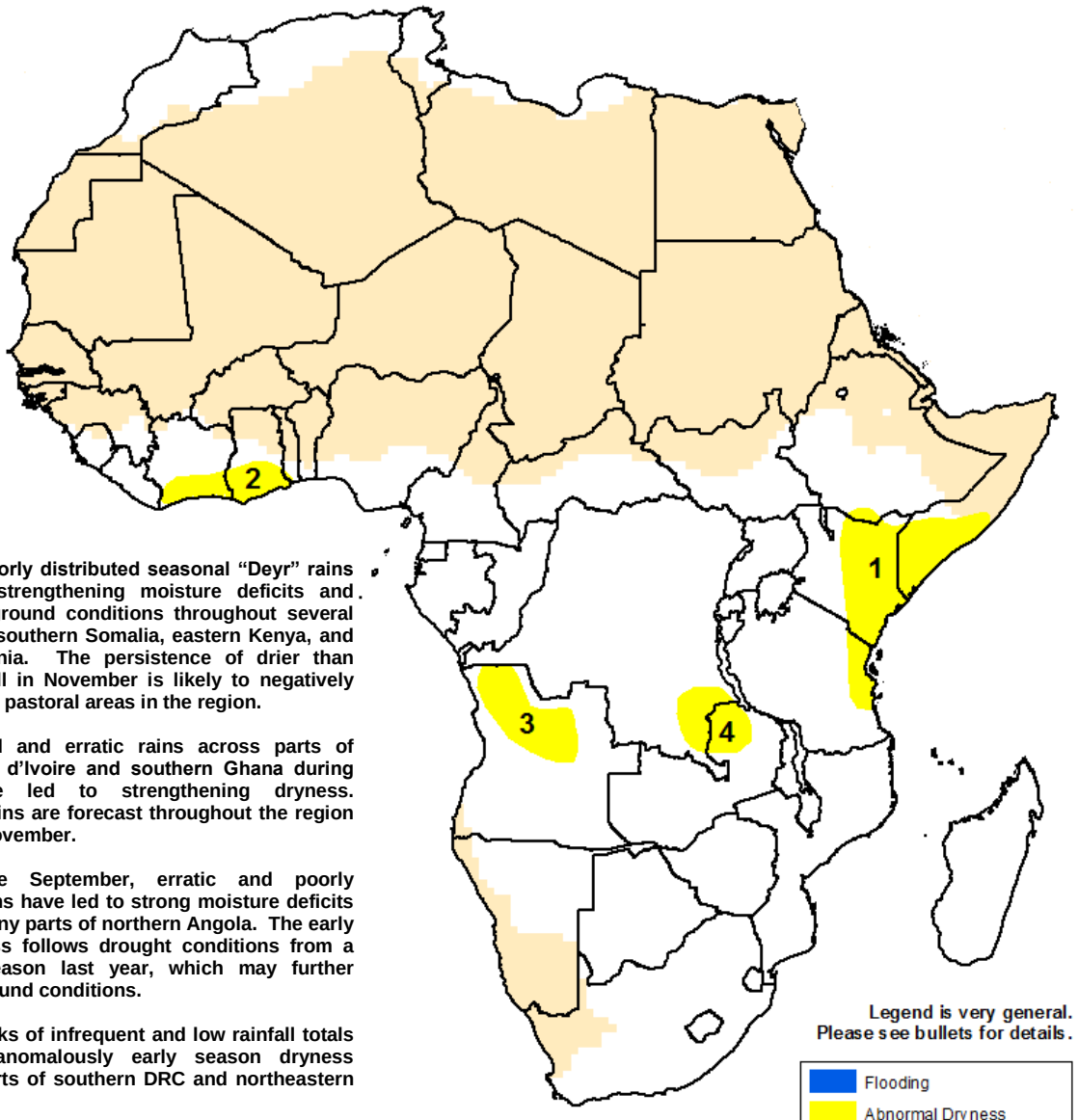
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
November 20 – November 26, 2014

- **A short period of increased rains helped to relieve many anomalously dry areas in the Greater Horn.**
- **Strengthening moisture deficits continue throughout parts of northern Angola and eastern Zambia.**



1) Low and poorly distributed seasonal "Deyr" rains have led to strengthening moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions throughout several local areas in southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. The persistence of drier than average rainfall in November is likely to negatively affect crop and pastoral areas in the region.

2) Suppressed and erratic rains across parts of southern Cote d'Ivoire and southern Ghana during October have led to strengthening dryness. Suppressed rains are forecast throughout the region during early November.

3) Since late September, erratic and poorly distributed rains have led to strong moisture deficits throughout many parts of northern Angola. The early season dryness follows drought conditions from a poor rains season last year, which may further exacerbate ground conditions.

4) Several weeks of infrequent and low rainfall totals has led to anomalously early season dryness throughout parts of southern DRC and northeastern Zambia.

Increased rains continue to provide much needed ground moisture in Somalia, Kenya.

During mid-November increased amounts of precipitation were received throughout many anomalously dry areas of the Greater Horn. In the last seven days, much of the moderate rains were well-distributed with the heaviest amounts of weekly precipitation (50mm) concentrated over southern Somalia, and southeastern Kenya. Lesser weekly rainfall amounts were observed further south across the bimodal areas of northern Tanzania, as well as eastern Tanzania (**Figure 1**).

Although seasonal rains have improved throughout the middle of November, both the delayed onset and unfavorable distribution of precipitation since the beginning of October have resulted in residual moisture deficits throughout many local areas. In southern Somalia, several areas along the Jubba River basin have continued to experience less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the season (**Figure 2**). In Kenya, much of anomalous dryness for the season has slightly shifted westward from the Wajir province and Mandera region towards the Marsabit province in north central Kenya, as this region has yet to receive any considerable amount of rainfall over the last six weeks. Along coastal Kenya and Tanzania, the latest increase in precipitation has only improved some local areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest an enhancement of seasonal rainfall through the end of November. Above-average rains are expected to continue to relieve dryness; in East Africa, however more rains are needed to offset more pronounced seasonal deficits in many local areas.

Early season dryness worsens in parts of Angola and Zambia.

In November, much of southern Africa has observed the onset of seasonal rains, as precipitaiton continues its southward push into the lower continent. However, several consecutive weeks of suppressed rains have led to growing moisture deficits in central Angola and in eastern Zambia. Since the beginning of September, several local areas in the Huambo, Bie and Malanje provinces have experienced early seasonal rainfall totals ranking in the 10th percentile (**Figure 3**), which is expected to lead to unfavorble ground conditions for early season cropping activities. Here, rains have been present but consistently low, and also follow anomalously dry conditions stemming from last years rains season.

In eastern Zambia, poor seasonal rainfall precipitaiton percentiles have also been prevalent. Over the past few weeks, several areas in the Luapula, Northern, Copperbelt and Central provinces, rains have been quite infrequent, resulting in strengtheing moisture defits that have begun to expand into the southern parts of the country. Precipitation forecasts for the upcoming week suggest the potential for some relief in northern Zambia, however several regions in the south are expected to experience suppressed rains in late November.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 9 – November 15, 2014

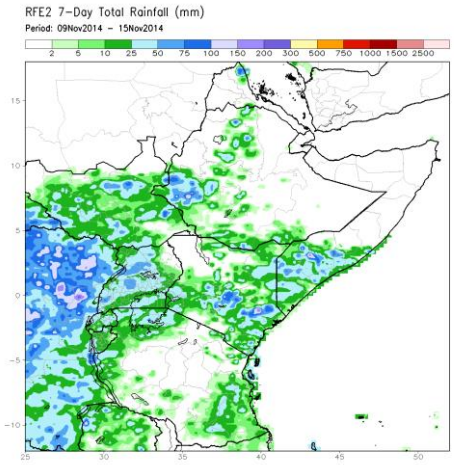


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 1 – November 15, 2014

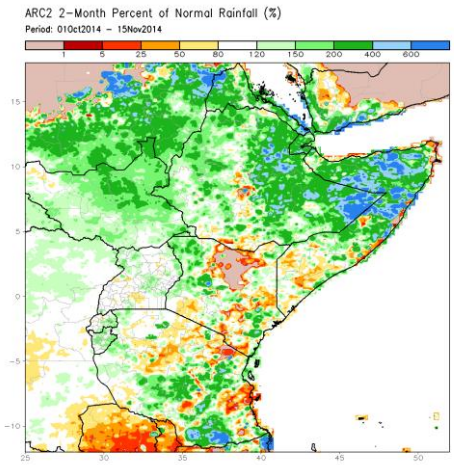


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: September 1 – November 15, 2014

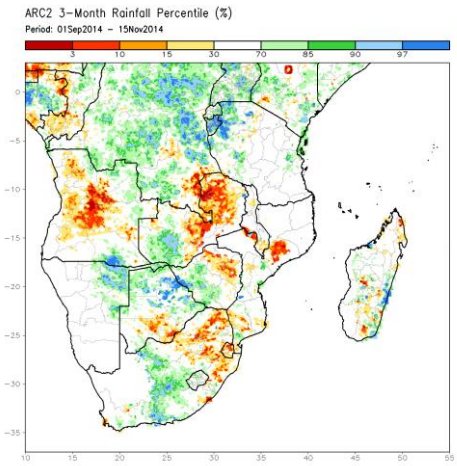


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.